

From: Joe Morse
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/28/01 12:00pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to express my extreme dismay and sense of betrayal at the DOJ's proposed settlement of the United States v. Microsoft civil antitrust case. I am a software engineer with 7 years of experience in the computing field. I also have a bachelors degree in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley, where I focused my studies on antitrust issues relating to technology industries.

For years Microsoft has been able to get away with using anticompetitive practices to annihilate any company that seeks to enter the markets it dominates (OS, Office Suite, Etc). The absence of competition has resulted not only in higher prices, but also in software of dubious quality. Every major worm and virus on the internet in the last 5 years has targeted blatant vulnerabilities in Microsoft software. These vulnerabilities exist because Microsoft has quashed (or acquired) competing products whose presence in the marketplace would have induced Microsoft to produce better and more secure software. Consumers (especially business consumers) lose because they get a shabby product at a higher price. Security and other defects also increase the cost of computing. On two occasions in the past year I have seen my company's network shut down for days at a time because of security holes in Microsoft's operating system. This resulted in several thousand lost man-hours and millions of dollars of financial loss for the company.

The proposed settlement would allow Microsoft to continue its predatory business practices unabated. Antitrust violations are often a cultural phenomenon at a corporation like Microsoft. Procedural and behavioral remedies fail to address Microsoft's conduct in markets it may seek to dominate in the future. There's an atmosphere of lawlessness in Redmond that only a structural remedy will cure.

Markets are created by society to fulfill its needs and desires. When a business enterprise becomes destructive of those needs and desires the government has a moral and legal obligation to step in and take strong corrective measures under the Sherman Act. The DOJ's proposed settlement falls well short of that obligation and betrays the public trust. I strongly urge the DOJ to abandon the proposed settlement in favor of an effective structural remedy.

Sincerely,

Joe Morse

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